Medical, Public Health and Ayurveda.

The improvement of medical and public health facilities will receive much greater emphasis in the next year than it did in any preceding year, in the recent past. The normal programme of providing more dispensaries and hospitals will be carried on. In addition, two District Hospitals of the State will be expanded with all modern facilities. It is proposed to make substantial advance in the control and cure of tuberculosis and leprosy. The Indigenous Medicines Department will intensify the useful services it has so far been rendering to our people. The facilities for teaching in the Medical and Ayurveda Colleges will also be substantially expanded.

Water Supply.

The serious problem of good drinking water especially in the coastal areas is being attended to. A good number of tube wells have already been sunk and this process will be continued next year also. The shortage of water supply in the Kottayam Town will be met by the opening of the water supply scheme and good drinking water will be supplied to Quilon during the next Plan period. The water supply scheme for Trichur town has already been taken up for completion.

In addition, a few rural water supply schemes will also be taken up.

Housing, Settlement and Colonisation.

The implementation of housing schemes in the coastal and under developed areas have been engaging the serious attention of my Government. This activity will be steadily expanded during the next year and will be supplemented by the Co-operative Colonisation Scheme, Industrial Housing Scheme and the Low Income Group Housing Scheme.

The Colonisation Scheme is expected to help in the re-settlement of another 1,200 families in the next five years.

Land Distribution.

The re-settlement of the landless people in available lands has been the constant concern of Government for quite some time. The extent of lands available is so limited and the people who have to be settled are so many that very constant and anxious consideration will be necessary in this

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regard. With a view to suggest measures for an equitable way to settle them on the lands that could possibly be made available, a commission will be set up to make suitable recommendation in this regard.

Panchayats and Local Bodies.

It has been the policy of my Government to assist in the development of Panchayats and Local Bodies as effective democratic institutions in the development of the State. Various development works will be carried out by the Panchayats in the next year in furtherance of this policy.

For the implementation of schemes of civic improvement in the various Municipalities, aid in the form of grants and loans will be given by Government during the coming year.

Agriculture.

Large scale programme of intensive cultivation on modern scientific methods are being taken up. During the coming year, it is proposed to continue the activities of plant protection branch, especially for controlling pest attacks on paddy crops. A number of research schemes are also to be taken up in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

Attention will be paid in the matter of improving the quality and yield of cash crop also. Controlled credit for agricultural operations will continue to be given. The scheme of Soil Conservation will be further expanded.

The Financial Statement for 1956–57 will be placed before you in due course.

You will be invited to consider the following among other bills:—

1. The Municipal (Temporary Provisions) Amendment Bill.
2. The Travancore-Cochin State Aid to Industries (Amendment) Bill.
3. The Travancore-Cochin General Sales Tax (Amendment) Bill.
4. The Travancore-Cochin Khadi and Village Industries Board Bill.
5. The Travancore-Cochin Payment of Salaries and Allowances (Amendment) Bill.

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